

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDAST2E2L0

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Cirsium rusbyi* (Greene) Petrak

**COMMON NAME:** Rusby's Thistle

**SYNONYMS:** *Carduus rusbyi* Greene

**FAMILY:** Asteraceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Cirsium rusbyi* (Greene) Petrak, Beih. Bot. Centralbl. 35, Ab. 2: 559. 1917. *Carduus rusbyi* Greene, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 1892: 361. 1893.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** *Cirsium rusbyi* is 1 of 101 species in the large genus *Cirsium*. This species is not recognized as distinct by Kearney and Peebles (1951), but maintained by Kartesz (1994). "*Cirsium* is a particularly complex genus taxonomically, with both introduced and indigenous species. The indigenous members are especially difficult, due in part to hybridization, mainly within species groups." (Welsh et al., 1993).

**DESCRIPTION:** Very little information on the species. **Description to follow is based on the Genus.**

Per Welsh et al. (1993), "Annual, biennial, or perennial, caulescent or acaulescent, spiny herbs from taproots, with caudices or rhizomes in some, the juice watery; leaves basal and cauline, alternate; heads solitary to several; involucral bracts in several series, subequal to imbricate, some or most of them spine-tipped; receptacle densely bristly; corollas all discoid, pink, purple, red, or creamy white, perfect or imperfect; pappus of plumose bristles (or those of the outermost flowers merely barbellate); style with a thickened minutely hairy ring below the nearly connate lobes; achenes glabrous, flattened or 4-angled, 4- to many-nerved."

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Endemic to Arizona, in the Santa Rita Mountains, Pima County.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** See "Total Range."

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial forb/herb from taproot.

**PHENOLOGY:** Unknown

**BIOLOGY:** Unknown

**HABITAT:** Unknown

**ELEVATION:** Unknown

**EXPOSURE:** Unknown

**SUBSTRATE:** Unknown

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Unknown

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Surveys to determine the status, range and life history of this plant are needed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**REFERENCES:**

- Hickman, J.C., editor. 1993. The Jepson Manual, higher plants of California. University of California Press. Berkeley, California. P. 232.
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). Retrieved 9/22/2004 from ITIS, <http://www.itis.usda.gov>.
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- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
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- Welsh, S.L., et al., editors. 1993. A Utah Flora. Second Edition, revised. Print Services, Brigham Young University. Provo, Utah. Pp. 189-190.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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